

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + United Nations Special Commission, as interim measure, sends team to Iraq to ensure that two rocket test sites are not used for prohibited purposes before monitoring cameras can be installed.
- + Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says Government of Mozambique and RENAMO must accelerate peace process; warns that international commitments cannot be sustained indefinitely; says elections could be held by October 1994.
- + Denmark says future financing of United Nations development activities is in doubt after General Assembly decision on 25 June not to act on draft resolution on economic and social restructuring of Organization.
- + Cyrus Vance to mediate between former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, at request of Secretary-General in accordance with Security Council resolution 845 (1993).
- + Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria appointed as Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Zaire; will undertake mission to see how United Nations can help resolve political situation in country.
- + Human Rights Committee to examine reports by Ireland, Hungary, Egypt, Bulgaria and Iran at forty-eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 30 July.
- + UNFPA says World Population Day on 11 July will aid search for balance between population, development and environment.

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The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq is sending a team of experts to the country, as an interim measure, to seal two rocket test sites until monitoring cameras can be installed. In a note to the Security Council, Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Commission, said cameras were the only feasible way of ensuring that the sites were not used for prohibited

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purposes. A team had been withdrawn from Iraq on 5 July because of its refusal to permit the installation of cameras. Mr. Ekeus said the Commission had an inventory of equipment at both sites and would verify that nothing had been moved.

Mr. Ekeus noted that Iraq had delivered certain chemical-weapons-precursor production equipment and precursor chemicals to the Commission's Chemical Destruction Group, and said the equipment had already been destroyed. He recalled that the Security Council had found Iraq's refusal to hand over the equipment and chemicals, and to permit the installation of cameras at the test sites, to constitute a breach of resolution 687 (1991), which was the basis for the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and a violation of resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991). He later told correspondents that the "chemical issue has been eliminated".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) must accelerate the peace process in their country. In a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), dated 30 June, he said the Organization would continue to provide help, but could not move the peace process forward by itself. The report was requested by the Security Council in resolution 818 (1993).

The Secretary-General stressed that a timetable for the implementation of last year's General Peace Agreement should be finalized without delay. The deployment of ONUMOZ, the creation of a Trust Fund to assist RENAMO, a massive international humanitarian effort and the return of refugees had created a firm foundation for the peace process. The demobilization of troops should begin very soon and be completed early next year, he continued. ONUMOZ could, with the consent of the Security Council, chair the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM) on the understanding that the United Nations would not be obliged to train or establish the new armed forces.

The Secretary-General said that preparing for elections in an atmosphere of tolerance and reconciliation was a high priority. He warned that the international community would react negatively to procrastination by any party, and noted that international commitments could not be sustained indefinitely. If the Government and RENAMO maintained their political commitment, and the international community were assured that the General Peace Agreement would be implemented promptly, the peace process could succeed and elections could be held by October 1994, he concluded.

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Denmark has warned that future financing of United Nations development activities is uncertain following the General Assembly's decision on 25 June not to act on a draft resolution on restructuring the Organization in the economic and social fields. Denmark, on behalf of the Nordic countries, told

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the Economic and Social Council yesterday that discussions on development financing, which should have started at the Assembly's next session, would not now proceed. The Council was beginning the three-day operational activities segment of its session in Geneva.

The United States told the Council that resources were limited, and said there was a need for more coherence and complementarity in United Nations activities. Morocco said developing countries had made great efforts to reach a compromise during the negotiations prior to the 25 June vote, but a spirit of confrontation had prevailed over one of consensus.

Meanwhile, the Council's Social Committee began its work for the session by discussing racism, the persistence of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing" and the increase in gender-based poverty. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahim Fall told the Committee that while new technologies were bringing people together, ethnic, national and racial intolerance were growing at an "alarming" rate.

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Cyrus Vance, former Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, is to serve as mediator between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece at the request of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The request was made in accordance with Security Council resolution 845 (1993), which called on the Secretary-General to continue his efforts for a speedy settlement of the remaining issues between the two parties.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Lakhdar Brahimi, former Foreign Minister of Algeria, as his Special Envoy for Zaire. Mr. Brahimi will undertake a goodwill mission to the country to explore how the United Nations can assist in resolving the political situation there.

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The Human Rights Committee will examine measures taken by Ireland, Hungary, Egypt, Bulgaria and Iran to promote and protect civil and political rights at its forty-eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 30 July. The 18-member body of independent experts has invited representatives of those countries to discuss reports on the implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee will also study confidential communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations of rights set forth in the 1966 Covenant. In addition, it will discuss the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

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World Population Day on 11 July will aid the search for a balance between population, development and the environment, according to Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She said the Day could also promote the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which would set the agenda on population issues for the next 20 years.

More than 150 countries will mark World Population Day this year. The Day was first celebrated in 1987, when the world's population reached 5 billion. UNFPA expects the population to reach 6.25 billion by the year 2000, 8.5 billion in 2025 and 10 billion by 2050.

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